

UNDER 1 YEAR OLD



Summary

Injury is the fifth leading cause of death for Washington children under 1 year old. Suffocation was the leading cause of injury-related death, and falls were the leading cause of injury-related hospitalization for infants.

Introduction¹

During 1999-2001, an average of 428 Washington State infants died each year. Although children under 1 year old are more likely to die from natural causes such as congenital malformations, sudden infant death syndrome, and complications from short gestation, injuries do impact this vulnerable population. During 1999-2001, injuries among Washington children under 1 year old were responsible for an annual average of:

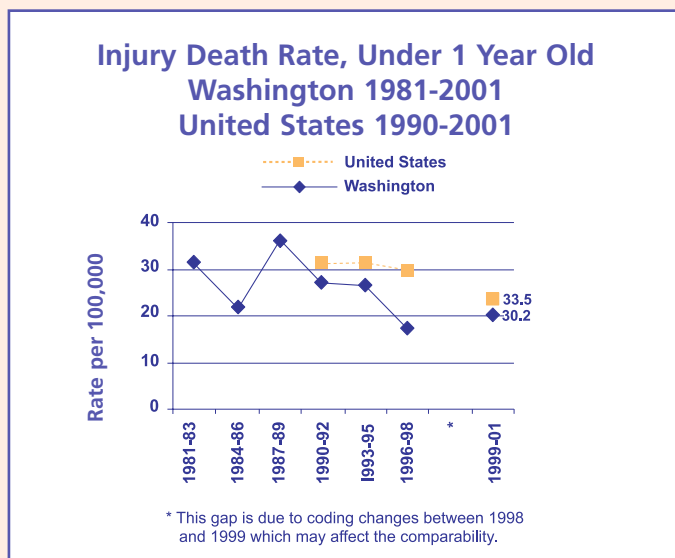
- 21 deaths
- 153 hospitalizations.
- About 5,000 visits to hospital emergency departments, or about one out of every 16 children under 1 year old.

¹ Unless otherwise specified, data are for injuries among Washington resident children under 1 year old during 1999-2001. Rates are per 100,000 children under 1 year old who are Washington residents.

Time Trends²

There was little change in the injury death rates for Washington children under 1 year old, from the three year time period of 1981-83 to 1999-2001.

Since 1990³, Washington death rates for children under 1 year old have been lower than those nationally.

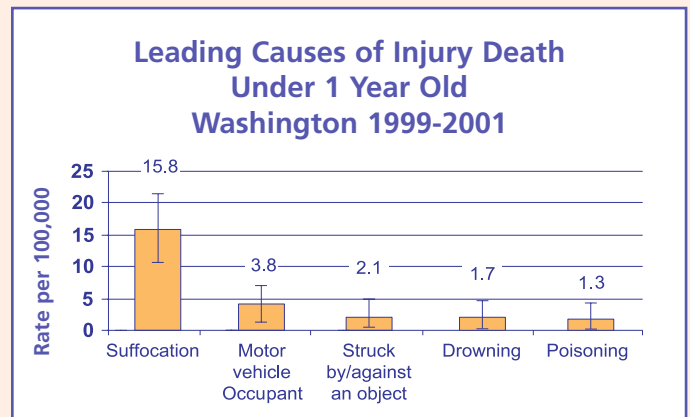


Intent

The majority of injury deaths (84 percent) and hospitalizations (98 percent) in Washington infants were classified as unintentional.

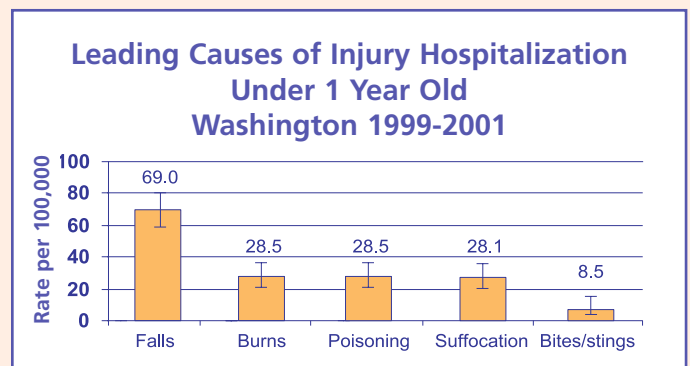
Leading Cause of Death⁴

Suffocation was the leading cause of injury-related death for Washington infants.



Leading Cause of Hospitalization⁵

Falls were the leading cause of injury-related hospitalization for Washington infants.



For prevention strategies, see chapters on suffocation, fall injury, motor vehicle occupant injury, fire and burn injuries, drowning, and poisoning.

² See Comparability Ratio section in Appendix D.

³ National injury death rates for children under 1 year old are not available prior to 1990.

⁴ Struck by or against an object is defined as an injury resulting from being struck by or striking against objects or persons.

⁵ Bites and stings are defined as an injury caused by bites and stings of venomous and non-venomous insects and other animals.